

7. (Once Amended) A method for the treatment of focal cerebral ischemic infarction by administering at least one α_2 -antiplasmin neutralizing compound.

Please add new claims 13 and 14 as follows:

13. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the at least one α_2 -antiplasmin neutralizing compound contains the catalytic domain of plasmin.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one α_2 -antiplasmin neutralizing compound contains a structure selected from the group consisting of at least one Kringle domain of plasmin and mutants and hybrids thereof.

ELECTION

Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group II, with traverse. Two other plasmin species, mini-plasmin and micro-plasmin, share the characteristics of plasmin as all are capable of binding α_2 -AP using corresponding binding domains. This bonding arrangement constitutes a shared technical feature. In addition, all three species share a mode of action, the steric hindrance of the function of α_2 -AP.

Applicants also note that the mode of action of the immunoglobulin is similar to the mode of action of the three plasmin species described above, namely, binding to α_2 -AP. The result of such binding is, according to the invention, a decrease in the concentration of α_2 -AP. It is obvious to a person skilled in the art that a decrease in the concentration of α_2 -AP actually means a decrease